NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers. under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

(i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Biecco Lawrie Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1991-92, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

II. Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (I) above.

Notifications of the Ministry of Industrial (Department of Industrial Development)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Krishna Sahi I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Industry (Department of Industrial Development) :—

(1) S.O. No. 125(E), dated the 24th February, 1993, regarding levy and collection of cess on cement.

(2) S.O. No. 126(E), dated the 24th February, 1993. publishing the draft Cement Cess Rules, 1993.

Order extending the period of supersession of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED) : Sir, I lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Home Affairs Order No. U. 14011/160/89-Delhi, dated the 4th December, 1992 extending the period of supersession of Municipal Corporation of Delhi from 35 months to 41 months, under sub-section (3) of section 490 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA (Maharashtra) : I present the Sixth Report (in English and Hindi) of the Committee on Rules.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE NATIONAL WELFARE BOARD FOR SEAFARERS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : I move the following Motion :—

"That in pursuance of clause (i) of rule 4 of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers Rules, 1963, read with sub-section (2) of section 218 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 (44 of 1958), this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one member from among the members of the House, to be a member of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers, in the vacancy to be caused by the expiration of the term of Shri E. Balanandan, Member, Rajya Sabha on the said Board on the 9th April, 1993".

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Statement by Minister correcting reply to discussion on the Passports (Amendment) Bill, 1993. Shri R. L. Bhatia.

(THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN IN THE CHAIR)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal) : Madam, I am on a point of order.. (*Interruptions*). ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Wait a minute. Let him first correct the point and then you can raise your point of order or point of disorder... (*Interruptions*)... Just a minute. Let me switch on the light, at least. I cannot see anything... (*Interruptions*)... Let the Minister speak first... (*Interruptions*)...

अभी उनको बोलने दीजिए, फिर पोइंट आफ आर्डर आएगा (व्यवधान) उनको बोलने तो दीजिए

Let him say something ...(*Interruptions*).

Statement by Minister correcting the reply given by him in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd February, 1993 on the Passports (Amendment) Bill, 1993

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : Madam, I had in my response to the hon. Members during the Rajya Sabha debate on the Passport (Amendment) Bill, 1993 on 23rd February, 1993 mentioned in response to a question from hon. Member Shrimati Kamla Sinha that the time between the date of receiving the application and the issue of passport would be one month. I would like to clarify that all passports are issued on first-come-first-served basis except for specific categories for out-of-turn priority issue of passports. In the first-come-first-served basis if an applicant's turn has come and the police report has not been received despite a lapse of four weeks when it was requested from the police authorities, the passport of the applicant will be issued. This, however, does not mean that each and every passport will be issued within one month. The actual time taken to issue the passport would depend upon the work-load at different passport offices. But if an applicant's turn comes and the police report has not been received despite the lapse of four weeks from the date when it was requested the applicant would get his passport. I had also mentioned earlier that passports were issued for three years. This was an inadvertant slip. I would like to say, earlier passports were issued for five years and now we are issuing passports for 10 years... (*interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That is clear now... (*interruptions*)...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Madam... (*interruptions*)...You may please recall your ruling when we had raised a point of order in the matter of correcting answers to questions. You said that normally the answers to unstarred questions are corrected... (*interruptions*)....

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : (Bihar) : Madam, the Minister has taken my name and I would also like to speak... (*interruptions*)...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Madam, now this is done every day. Daily one reply or the other is corrected. This is the first time at least, during my 12 years' tenure in the Rajya Sabha that I have come across—this is the first time—a Minister correcting his reply to the debate on a Bill... (*interruptions*)...

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA (Rajasthan) : He is correcting his own reply.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: He is correcting his reply to the debate on a Bill... (*interruptions*)... The debate had taken place on 23rd February. It betrays how ill-equipped a Minister comes while he pilots a Bill and replies to the debate... (*interruptions*)....

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : This is taking the Parliament casually ... (*interruptions*)...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : The Parliament is taken for a ride. I would request the Deputy Chairman, who has also been here for as many as 12 years as I am here, at least, you should pass a remark or make an observation which should go on record that Ministers should not come so ill-equipped while piloting a Bill and replying to a discussion on that Bill... (*interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I would like to say to your grievance, your complaint or whatever it may be, that there should not be such happenings. It should not take place. Now, before this it was a statement correcting an answer to which I had made my observation that the Ministers should be careful while preparing their answers. Mostly these are unstarred questions. Now, as regards this, I feel that you should be happy that the Minister came forward and accepted that he made a